

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SYDNEY 01646 260401Z  
ACTION NODS-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SYDNEY 1646

NODISK

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM CHRISTOPHER

E.O. 11652: XGDS  
TAGS: OVIP (CHRISTOPHER, WARREN), PGOV, US, TH  
SUBJECT: TALKS WITH THAI OFFICIALS

1. EN ROUTE TO WELLINGTON FOR ANZUS I WANT YOU TO HAVE MY MAIN IMPRESSIONS OF THAILAND, SUPPLEMENTING THE DETAILED REPORTS WHICH EMBASSY BANGKOK WILL SUBMIT SEPARATELY OF MY TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER.

2. THE FIRST VISIT IN SEVERAL YEARS OF A HIGH-RANKING ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL APPARENTLY HAD A GOOD EFFECT. MY VISIT PLUS YOUR ASIA SOCIETY SPEECH, U.S. NAVY SHIP CALLS AT THAI PORTS, AND MODEST MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM USG FOR FY 78, AND MEASURED PACE OF USG NORMALIZATION WITH VIETNAM HAS SERVED TO REASSURE THAIS THAT U.S. WILL NOT TURN ITS BACK ON ASIA AND PACIFIC. PRIME MINISTER THANIN IS EAGER TO VISIT WASHINGTON AND WE SHOULD TRY FOR FEBRUARY 1978, IF FEASIBLE.

3. PRIME MINISTER DESCRIBED ANTI-NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN AS "TENACIOUS AND SYSTEMATIC." SEIZURE LAST WEEK IN A SINGLE RAID OF A MAJOR TRAFFICKER AND OVER 100 KGS. OF HEROIN IS INDICATIVE OF EFFORTS BEING MADE. BEGINNING  
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OF MEANINGFUL THAI-BURMESE COOPERATION ALONG BORDER IS GOOD SIGN, ALTHOUGH BOTH GOVERNMENTS NEED TO DO MORE. I COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON PROGRESS TO DATE AND ENCOURAGED THEM TO KEEP AT IT. THEY ARE PLEASED WITH CLOSE USG COOPERATION AND SUPPORT.

4. I WAS ABLE TO STRESS PRIVATELY AND PUBLICLY THE

STRONG USG COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS, EXPLAINING THAT IT COVERS THREE CATEGORIES (I.E. INTEGRITY OF PERSON, BASIC HUMAN NEEDS, POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT), REASSURING THEM AS TO UNIVERSAL APPLICATION RATHER THAN SINGLING OUT CERTAIN GOVERNMENTS, AND STRESSING IMPORTANCE OF TRENDS RATHER THAN ISOLATED ACTS. THEY WERE PLEASED AT OUR RECOGNITION OF THAI HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS WITH INDO CHINA REFUGEES AND OUR INTENTION TO DO MORE TO HELP RESOLVE REFUGEE PROBLEM. I HAD FRANK, USEFUL TALK WITH PRIME MINISTER ON A SUMMARY PUNISHMENT (ARTICLE 21) AND NEED TO MOVE FORWARD TOWARD GREATER POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT.

5. THE THAI VALUE GREATLY LONG-STANDING U.S. FRIENDSHIP BUT IT IS NOT A CLIENT STATE RELATIONSHIP. THEY ARE A PROUD, INDEPENDENT PEOPLE WHO SEE CLEAR BENEFIT OF U.S. AID, YET ARE NOT PANTING FOR IT AND HAVE COME A LONG WAY TOWARD SELF-SUFFICIENCY SINCE EARLY 1970'S WHEN U.S. PRESENCE WAS SO MASSIVE.

6. THEY ARE AS PUZZLED BY CAMBODIA AS WE (INDIANS EXPRESSED SAME PUZZLEMENT). THEY ANTICIPATE CONTINUING BORDER INCIDENTS WITH CAMBODIANS BUT DO NOT APPEAR OVERLY WORRIED. CONCERNING VIETNAM AND LAOS, THEY ARE WARY BUT TOLERANT IN FACE OF PROVOCATION AND PATIENT IN PROBING FOR POSSIBILITIES OF BETTER RELATIONS. (THAI CONFIDENTIAL

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ARE MEETING WITH VIETNAMESE AND LAOTIANS IN VIENTIANE THIS WEEK ON REACTIVATING MEKONG COMMISSION.)

7. PRIME MINISTER THANIN STRUCK ME AS FORCEFUL, MORE INTELLIGENT THAN ADVERTISED BUT EXCESSIVELY RIGID AND OBSESSED WITH BIPOLAR WORLD OF COMMUNISTS AND ANTI-COMMUNISTS. THIS WAS MOST MARKED IN HIS VIEWS ON CHINA, EXPRESSING REGRET OVER NORMALIZATION. FOREIGN MINISTER IS MUCH MORE REALISTIC ON THIS ISSUE AND EMBASSY BELIEVES THE REALISTIC VIEW WILL CONTINUE TO PREVAIL.  
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